

IN THE CLAIMS AMEND

1. (Currently Amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey,

Sub  
C1  
said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having a unitary outer surface having two lateral outer ~~surfaces~~ sides,
- ~~at least one each of said outer surfaces~~ sides having a ~~molded outer layer defining a rough surface finish on~~ at least one region with a raised, roughened texture ~~a portion of said at least one outer surface, said molded outer layer adapted to enhance~~ that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck.

2. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 1 wherein said roughened texture region

~~rough surface finish~~ includes a series of small projections.

3. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 1 wherein said ~~rough surface finish~~

roughened texture region is a diamond grit texture projecting from said at least one of said outer surfaces.

4. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 2 wherein small projections extend above

said at least one outer ~~surface~~ side a distance ranging from .005 to 1mm.

5. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 4 wherein small projections extend above

said at least one outer ~~surface~~ side a distance ranging from .02 to .08mm.

6. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 1 wherein said at least one of said outer surfaces further comprises a shock-absorbing element.

7. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 6 wherein said shock-absorbing element is embedded into a cavity in said molded outer layer~~unitary outer surface~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 7 wherein said shock-absorbing element extend above said ~~at least one outer~~unitary outer surface by about 1 to 4mm.

9. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 6 wherein said shock-absorbing element is bonded to said ~~at least one of said~~unitary outer surfaces.

10. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 6 wherein said shock-absorbing element is made of a deformable material.

11. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 10 wherein said shock-absorbing element is made a rubberized material.

12. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 7 wherein said blade portion further comprises at least one aperture in an upper area of said blade portion.

13. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 12 wherein said blade comprises ~~a series of~~two or more apertures in said upper area of said blade portion.

14. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having two lateral outer [surfaces] sides;
- [at least one] each of said outer [surfaces] sides having at least two cavities therein, with

at least [one] two shock-absorbing [element] elements embedded [into said at least one of said outer surfaces] therein, wherein the at least two cavities are spaced apart from each other on the same lateral outer side of the blade.

15. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 14 wherein said shock-absorbing element is a made of a deformable material.

16. (Cancelled)

Sub 7  
C17  
B7  
17. (Currently Amended) A blade as defined in claim 14~~16~~ wherein said shock-absorbing elements is-are a bands of rubberized material.

18. (Original) A blade as defined in claim 14 wherein said at least one of said outer surfaces comprises a molded-unitary outer layer ~~defining a rough surface finish~~ having at least one region with a raised, roughened texture on at least a portion of said at least one outer surfaces, said molded-unitary outer layer adapted to enhance friction between said blade portion and a puck.

19. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having a unitary outer surface having two lateral outer [surfaces] sides,
- [at least one] each of said outer [surfaces] sides having [a molded outer layer defining a rough surface finish on] at least one region with a raised, roughened texture[a portion of said at least one outer surface, said molded outer layer adapted to enhance] that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck; and

*BZ* - at least one of said outer sides additionally comprising at least two cavities, with [a] at least two shock-absorbing [element] elements embedded [into said at least one of said outer surfaces] therein, wherein the at least two cavities are spaced apart from each other on the same lateral outer side of the blade.

20 – 21 (Withdrawn)

*Sub 7*  
*C1*  
*BZ* 22. (New) A blade as defined in claim 5, the blade comprising a heel section and a toe section, both the heel and toe section being separated by a midsection, wherein each of the heel and toe sections have at least one region with raised, roughened texture with a coarser diamond grit texture than that of the midsection.

23. (New) A blade as defined in claim 22, wherein the diamond grit texture extends above each of said outer sides by about 0.05 mm at the heel and toe sections, and by about 0.025 mm at the midsection.